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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

The Bargain of the 21st Century for the Bases - *Hurriyet*
NATO Summit Will Paralyze Daily Life in Istanbul - *Sabah*
Air Traffic Will Stop During Bush's Arrival - *Milliyet*
NATO Will Halt Life in Istanbul - *Aksam*
NATO Halts Daily Life -- *Posta*

OPINION MAKERS

EU Gives Hope for a Date for Negotiations - *Radikal*
EU Signals for the Negotiation Date - *Turkiye*
The Life Halt During the NATO Summit - *Zaman*
Iraqi Kurds Urge PKK to Lay Down Arms - *Yeni Safak*
Washington Wants to Use Turkish Bases - *Cumhuriyet*

BRIEFING

A/S Bloomfield in Ankara: "Hurriyet" fronts an exclusive
from the visit of A/S State Lincoln Bloomfield and Assistant
Secretary of Defense Andy Hoehn to Ankara. The lead story

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says the US has started the negotiation process on the
Global Defense Posture which includes the use of Turkish air
bases, part of a 100-year plan for the US military
structure. Bloomfield told "Hurriyet" that the current
process is about consultation and reviewing restructuring
ideas and is not about bringing up new demands. The daily
interpreted the visit as a sign for a global restructuring
that will have an impact on how NATO works and called on the
Turkish government to be alert to the emerging demands. The
story notes that the US wants flexibility, speed and
mobility in its new military posture, yet such concepts do
not comply with the NATO process. Thus Turkey should be
ready for some changes in Turkish-US military cooperation,
the daily noted. All papers carried the Bloomfield visit as
part of the Global Defense Posture consultations.

Encouraging Messages From EU to Turkey: The mass appeal
"Hurriyet" draws attention to EU Commissioner Verheugen's
words that the EU Commission's report about Turkey would be
based on objective criteria. Verheugen describes Turkey's
EU policies as a success story. "Turkiye" reports that the
EU gave a signal to Turkey for the accession date with
Verheugen saying that the accession talks with Turkey will
not be just a formality. "Radikal" notes that there were
increasing positive messages for the start of accession
talks. "Radikal" also notes that Verheugen had highlighted
Turkey's shortcomings in three areas: freedom of expression,
freedom of worship and detention conditions.

Kurdish Leaders Urge PKK to Lay Down its Arms: "Yeni Safak"
reports that under the leadership of Kurdistan Democratic
Party (KDP) leader Barzani, all the other Kurdish leaders in
Northern Iraq had urged PKK/KONGRA-GEL to cease terror
attacks. The leader of the Kurdistan Islam party said that
the violence will not help Kurdish people to gain their
rights but the war would only serve the interests of the arm
dealers. The Kurdish leaders agree that the steps
undertaken by Turkey for the Kurds' cultural rights were
very important.

EDELMAN